

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for managing postage products, comprising:  
2                   causing information about a plurality of products to be displayed;  
3                   receiving a selection of at least one of said plurality of products;  
4                   comparing said selection with subscription information about ones of said  
5 plurality of products currently subscribed;  
6                   updating said subscription information based upon said selection; and  
7                   providing access to selected products based upon said updated subscription  
8 information.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to selected products  
2 based upon said updated subscription comprises adding a subscription to a product selected in  
3 said selection information, if said product was not in said subscription information.

1                   3.       The method of claim 2, wherein adding a subscription comprises  
2 determining if hardware is required by said selected product; and if so,  
3 determining whether said hardware has not been previously sent to a consumer  
4 making said selection, and if so,  
5 sending said hardware to said consumer.

1                   4.       The method of claim 2, wherein adding a subscription comprises:  
2 determining if an account is required by said selected product; and if so  
3 obtaining information about a consumer making said selection;  
4 creating an account for said consumer based upon said information.

1                   5.       The method of claim 2, wherein adding a subscription comprises:  
2 determining if a postal license is required by said selected product; and if so  
3 obtaining information about a consumer making said selection; and  
4 obtaining a postal license for said consumer based upon said information.

1                   6.       The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to selected products  
2 based upon said updated subscription comprises deleting a subscription to a product de-  
3 selected in said selection information, if said product was in said subscription information.

1                   7.       The method of claim 6, wherein deleting a subscription comprises  
2 determining if hardware is required by said de-selected product, and if so,

3                   determining whether de-selecting said product causes said hardware to no  
4 longer be required by a consumer making said selection, and if so,  
5                   sending a return merchandise authorization for said hardware to said  
6 consumer.

1                   8.       The method of claim 6, wherein deleting a subscription comprises:  
2                   determining if an account is required by said de-selected product; and if so  
3                   determining if an account is required by any remaining products; and if an  
4 account is no longer required,  
5                   obtaining permission from a consumer making said selection to deactivate said  
6 account; and, if provided,  
7                   deactivating said account for said consumer.

1                   9.       The method of claim 6, wherein deleting a subscription comprises:  
2                   determining if a postal license is required by said de-selected product; and if  
3 so  
4                   determining if a postal license is required by any remaining products; and if  
5 said postal license is no longer required,  
6                   obtaining permission from a consumer making said selection to deactivate said  
7 postal license; and, if provided,  
8                   deactivating said postal license for said consumer.

1                   10.     An apparatus for managing postage products, comprising:  
2                   a processor;  
3                   a memory;  
4                   a display;  
5                   an input device;  
6                   a bus, interconnecting said processor, said memory, said display, and said  
7 input device; wherein  
8                   said processor causes information about a plurality of products to be displayed  
9 on said display; and wherein said processor receives a selection of at least one of said  
10 plurality of products from said input device; and thereupon, said processor compares said  
11 selection with subscription information about ones of said plurality of products currently  
12 subscribed, updates said subscription information based upon said selection, and provides  
13 access to selected products based upon said updated subscription information.

1 11. A computer program product for managing postage products,  
2 comprising:  
3 code that causes information about a plurality of products to be displayed;  
4 code that receives a selection of at least one of said plurality of products;  
5 code that compares said selection with subscription information about ones of  
6 said plurality of products currently subscribed;  
7 code that updates said subscription information based upon said selection;  
8 code that provides access to selected products based upon said updated  
9 subscription information; and  
10 a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein providing access  
2 to selected products based upon said updated subscription comprises adding a subscription to  
3 a product selected in said selection information, if said product was not in said subscription  
4 information.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein code that adds a  
2 subscription comprises:  
3 code that determines if hardware is required by said selected product;  
4 code that determines whether said hardware has not been previously sent to a  
5 consumer making said selection;  
6 code that sends said hardware to said consumer.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein code that adds a  
2 subscription comprises:  
3 code that determines if an account is required by said selected product;  
4 code that obtains information about a consumer making said selection;  
5 code that creates an account for said consumer based upon said information.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein code that adds a  
2 subscription comprises:  
3 code that determines if a postal license is required by said selected product;  
4 code that obtains information about a consumer making said selection;  
5 code that obtains a postal license for said consumer based upon said  
6 information.

1           16.     The computer program product of claim 11, wherein code that  
2 provides access to selected products based upon said updated subscription, comprises code  
3 that deletes a subscription to a product de-selected in said selection information, if said  
4 product was in said subscription information.

1           17.     The computer program product of claim 16, wherein said code that  
2 deletes a subscription comprises:  
3           code that determines if hardware is required by said de-selected product;  
4           code that determines whether de-selecting said product causes said hardware  
5 to no longer be required by a consumer making said selection; and  
6           code that sends a return merchandise authorization for said hardware to said  
7 consumer.

1           18.     The computer program of claim 16, wherein said code that deletes a  
2 subscription comprises:  
3           code that determines if an account is required by said de-selected product;  
4           code that determines if said account is required by any remaining products;  
5           code that obtains permission from a consumer making said selection to  
6 deactivate said account; and, if provided,  
7           code that deactivates said account for said consumer.

1           19.     The computer program of claim 16, wherein said code that deletes a  
2 subscription comprises:  
3           code that determines if a postal license is required by said de-selected product;  
4           code that determines if said postal license is required by any remaining  
5 products;  
6           code that obtains permission from a consumer making said selection to  
7 deactivate said postal license; and  
8           code that deactivates said postal license for said consumer.

1           20.     A system for managing postage products, comprising:  
2           at least one of a plurality of clients;  
3           at least one of a plurality of servers;  
4           a network, interconnecting said at least one of a plurality of clients and said at  
5 least one of a plurality of servers;

6                   a database;  
7                   a second network, interconnecting said at least one of a plurality of servers and  
8 said database; wherein  
9                   said at least one of a plurality of servers causes information about at least one  
10 of a plurality of products to be displayed at said at least one of a plurality of clients; and  
11 wherein said at least one of a plurality of clients receives a selection of at least one of said  
12 plurality of products from an input device; and thereupon, said at least one of a plurality of  
13 clients forwards said selection to said at least one of a plurality of servers, which compares  
14 said selection with subscription information about ones of said plurality of products currently  
15 subscribed, said subscription information stored in said database, updates said subscription  
16 information based upon said selection, and provides access to selected products based upon  
17 said updated subscription information.